

Attorney's Docket No.: 08173-04R001

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the abstract on page 36 with the following new abstract:

Techniques and devices based on contact optical heads in optical storage devices and systems. In one implementation, a load actuator is provided in an optical storage device and is operable to apply a force to cause the optical head to contact the optical disk at a contact location of an optical interfacing surface when reading or writing data and the optical interfacing surface is a curved surface with a protruded apex at or near which the load actuator causes the optical head to contact the optical disk during reading or writing data.